

# AWOL #2

*youth for peace and revolution*



young adults...teenagers...

# UNITE

if you are tired of being  
hassled by military recruiters

AWOL

c/o CCCO

655 Sutter #514

San Francisco, CA 94102

1-800-NO-JROTC

ccowr @ peacenet.org

<http://www.libertynet.org/~ccco>

# editor's note

Hi. Welcome to another riveting issue of AWOL. Let me introduce you to the organization that is sponsoring this project and briefly explain how we frame our struggle.

CCCO stands for the Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors. We work with grassroots peace activists, conscientious objectors, military resisters, and military personnel fighting for their rights. We support individual and collective resistance to war.

When the organization began in 1948, the term conscientious objector—referring to someone who refuses to fight in a war based on their beliefs—was all too pertinent. However, as a result of the draft officially ending in 1975, many people began to feel that the term CO was outdated and support for the movement waned. While there is an ongoing dialogue about whether to change CCCO's name simply because it's a mouthful (say "CCCO sells seashells by the seashore" and you can only begin to know the feeling of answering the phone a zillion times a day!), we defend our present use of the term "CO" by a simple broadening of the definition — a reality check, if you will.

The military knows that if you can draft minds you can draft bodies. And that's exactly what's going down. This death culture provides the blood money for a massive military propaganda campaign that bombards us daily since birth, telling us that signing up shows that we care about our country, that the military is glamorous, and furthermore, that the military is a ticket to education and money. True choice is not possible because differing viewpoints and the option of dissent are not provided. (Though peace is in the interests of most of the people of the world, we don't hear much about it because it is not profitable for the upper class and the transnationals that live off our exploitation.) So in the spirit of real democracy, this zine was created to allow alternative voices to be heard, to allow the people that are being targeted by the military—youth—to speak for ourselves, so that we can make better decisions about our lives and the future of this planet.

The ultimate goal of this rests on the faith that we will act in the interests of justice. Because a closer look at the military reveals that it doesn't even come close to fulfilling our needs, as it claims to. Active peace, on the other hand, is a practical philosophy fulfilling the basic needs of empowerment and a sense of community. Our ideas do matter and if we are united and if we keep caring and if we keep struggling against oppression, our ideas can have effect. At CCCO we know that the military's threat has never ended. We know that many of us are conscientiously objecting to militarism in our various actions every day and that, together, we are slowly building a world based on peace, freedom, and egalitarianism. Won't you join us?

## ACTION = POWER!

Jenna DeLorey

P.S. Please contribute articles for future issues, and send \$1 for AWOL#1 (flats only). We encourage you to make copies and distribute this far and wide and if anyone gives you any hassles let us know and contact the ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union, 132 W. 43rd St., New York, NY 10036) because this 'zine is protected under the first amendment of the U.S. Constitution and any infringement on your freedom of speech is possible cause for legal action.

# Resource List

## Want to do Something About "IT"?

1. Check Out the ACTIVISTS, ...  
For Youth and Anti-Militarist  
Organizing Activities and Resources

**Central Committee for  
Conscientious Objectors:**  
(800)NO-JROTC  
1515 Cherry St. Philadelphia, PA 19102  
(215)563-8787  
SCREAM! c/o CCCO, 655 Sutter, Suite 514,  
San Francisco, CA 94102  
(415)474-3002  
<http://www.libertynet.org/~ccco>  
! The Objector  
! A.W.O.L. (zine by & for youth)

**NISBCO National Interreligious Ser-  
vice Board for Conscientious Objec-  
tors:** 800 18th St. Suite 600, N.W. Wash-  
ington, D.C. 20006 (202)483-2220  
! The Reporter

**AFSC Youth & Militarism Program:**  
1501 Cherry St., Philadelphia, PA 19102  
(215)241-7176

**WAMM Women Against Military  
Madness:** 310 East 38th St. Suite 225,  
Minneapolis, MN 55409 (612)827- 5364

**YouthPeace/War Resisters League:**  
339 Lafayette St. New York, N.Y. 10012  
(212)228-0450  
! Nonviolent Activist

**FOR Fellowship of Reconciliation:**  
P.O. Box 271, Nyack, NY 10960  
(914)358-4601  
! Fellowship Magazine

**Veterans for Peace:** P.O. Box 3881,  
Portland, ME 04104 (207)773-1431

**Project Y.A.N.O.:** P.O. Box 230157  
Encinitas, CA 92023 (619)753-7518

**Center for Campus Organizing:**  
P.O. Box 748, Cambridge, MA 02142  
(617)354-9363

2. BOOKS to Read  
**War** by Gwynn Dyer  
**Home Before Morning** by Lynda Van  
Devanter  
**Reweaving the Web of Life: Feminism and  
Nonviolence** edited by Pam McCallister  
**The Power of the People: Active Non-  
violence in the U.S.** by Helen  
Michalowski and Robert Cooney  
**Where Do We Go from Here: Chaos or  
Community?** by Philip Caputo  
**A Rumor of War** by Philip Caputo  
**Choosing Peace** by Robert Seeley (avail-  
able through CCCO)

3. FILMS to See  
*Full Metal Jacket*, *Dead Presidents*, *Born  
on the Fourth of July*, *Berkeley in the Six-  
ties*, *The War at Home*, *Breaker Morant*,  
*Coming Home*, *Missing*, *Gandhi*, *Gallipoli*,  
*Apocalypse Now*, *Hearts & Minds*, *Soldier  
Girls*

4. Get First Hand EXPERIENCE  
Do you want to work overseas, volunteer,  
be a part of a summer workcamp???  
Contact:  
**Service Civil International:** Route 2, Box  
506, Crozet, VA 22932 (804)823-1826  
**Citizen Action:** 2000 P St. N.W. Suite 310,  
Washington, D.C. 20036 (202)775-0370 or  
check out <http://www.nonviolence.org>

For more information contact  
any, or all, of these  
organizations. The only way to  
change things is to get  
involved, ask questions, make  
yourself heard! There is plenty  
of strength and power within  
our generation. With good  
organization, we can utilize  
both to make peaceful and  
positive changes in the world!!!





**Drop Out #3-** This newspaper is intended to be a forum for young people to discuss the psychological consequences of compulsory schooling, school's role in society and the economy, real and potential alternatives to forced learning (homeschooling, "alternative" schools, etc.), youth rights, and parental control. (Send \$1 or \$5 for 20 to the Hindenburg, 1114 21st St., Sacramento, CA 95814)

**Skunk #4-** Poems, prose, comics, and pictures. Artsy and political! Especially interesting were the pieces on the Manhattan (garden) Projects and the Art of Eviction art show held at ABC NoRio, a collectively-run gallery and performance space. (Send \$1 to PO Box 20524, Tomkins Sq. Sta., NY, NY 10009)

**Slug and Lettuce #43-** S&L is a newspaper celebrating its 10th anniversary and boy-o-girl are we proud of them! This is chock-full of punk rock classifieds, record and zine reviews, and various radical columns. (Send a 55 cent stamp to Christine Boarts, PO Box 492, West Chester, PA 19381)

**Subway Sissy-** Distro of more than 90 zines, with descriptions that will make you salivate! A divine introduction to the wonderful world of zines! (Send a 32 cent stamp to Witknee, 17337 Tramonto #306, Pacific Palisades, CA 90272).

## Music and Other Stuff

**Mankind?** "Won't You Join the Army Now So You Can Fight..." - Music to use when you take over the military base's speakers. The song "Find Your Future..." repeats the promises made by the military—then tells you how they're lies. "Deceitful Vows" is a song about the slavery of marriage. (Mankind? PO Box 3467, 2183, Meriden, CT 06450).

**Half Empty "Welcome Home" (7" vinyl)-** "Welcome Home" is about people who call the streets their home, whether through necessity or desire, and about how they form a network that welcomes newcomers with open arms. Also: evil industry, animal liberation. Dual vocals freaks take note. (New Order Records, 445 14th St., San Francisco, CA 94103).

**Nausea "Lie Cycle" (7" vinyl) - Metal!** "Right to live" is my favorite with lyrics like "Murder for profit, profit for death." Another song called "Blood and Circus" had lyrics like, "Popstars with peace signs selling us war," and, "While profits keep swelling, filling the banks, the poor and minorities file into rank." (Graven Image Records, PO Box 2067, Peter Stuy. Stn., NYC 10069).

**Witchknot "Suck" (7" vinyl)-** Along with the usual bass, guitar, and drums, this band creates a whole new sound with the help of a cello and a violin. One song, called "Pianist Envy" is about a school in Australia that was set up so girls could learn how to play instruments and be encouraged to start their own bands. Another song, called "Sabotage," is a legend about the pixies destroying churches, roads, and machines. (Send \$2 to Witchknot, c/o Flat Earth, 'Bradford Music,' PO Box 169, Bradford, W. Yorks., BD7 1IS, UK).

**Alien Girl-** Catalog of neat t-shirts that come in a variety of styles and have slogans like "barbie is not my role model." The idea here is that we need an alternative to all of the gross sexist t-shirts out there. (Send a 32 cent stamp to Marcy, 1215 E. Spring, Box 36, Seattle, WA 98122).

**Homeless Records Distro-** Homeless is not afraid to mix riot grrrl with hardcore with crusty punk with emo with indie music! Tons of zines and leftist books as well! (Send a 32 cent stamp to 3719 A Castleman, St. Louis, MO 63110).

THEY'RE FLASHY. THEY'RE DANGEROUS. THEY'RE TARGETING MILLIONS OF STUDENTS.  
THEY'RE COMING TO A SCHOOL NEAR YOU.

# INVASION OF THE BODY SNATCHERS

by Oriana Bolden, SCREAM Co-Convenor, and CCCO Staff

They travel in units called Pods. They need 400,000 bodies. They're coming to high schools to get them.

This is not a horror movie.

This is real.

The U.S. Army Recruiting Command is deploying a powerful recruiting weapon — and they're using America's schoolyards and classrooms to do it. The Army Cinema Vans and Pods, the Army Adventure Van, and the Summer Navy Recruiting Cruise cross the country with high-tech "educational" shows that glamorize war.

## How do the Body Snatchers Travel?

The invasion can come by:

- Seven Army Cinema Vans, each equipped with nine slide projectors and three screens.
- Eight Cinema Pods, carrying the recruiters and slide show directly into classrooms.
- The Army Adventure Van, featuring an M-1 tank simulator, a Cobra helicopter simulator, and a "Weaponeer" — an M-16 rifle simulator. The Weaponeer provides each student with a printout showing exactly where each "hit" tore through their depersonalized, but human, target.

These vans stop by shopping malls, state fairs, rodeos — wherever young people can be found. The Navy's version, the summer Great Lakes Recruiting Cruise, takes recruiters' best "prospects" on two-hour cruises in *real battleships!*

Of course, in addition to the recruiters running the show, local recruiters are always present at these events, ready to take your name and number and sign you up. "The vans zero in on our target market, and that's in high schools," explained Fred Zinchiak, Public Affairs Specialist in the Sacramento Army Recruiting Battalion.

## A Learning Experience?

Army slide shows include *We the People* — "217 years of American history from the birth of the nation through Operation Desert Storm;" *Combat Arms — The Tough Choice*, with 21 minutes of artillery and armor (without the carnage of real combat!); and *Path to Professionalism*, a "guide on the transition from civilian to soldier," which glorifies a soldier's first year without mentioning such minor points as hazing, humiliation, and loss of civil rights.

## What We Can Do

Youth activists around the country have been involved in stopping the Body Snatchers, from New York to California!

**Find out when the Vans are coming** The first step is to call CCCO at 1-800-NO-JROTC, and ask when it's coming to your area. (CCCO can also put you in touch with other activists). Then call the regional Recruiting Command's public affairs office, and find out *which* schools are being visited by the van on which days. This is public information; the military is required to provide it upon request. Protest the school's hosting of the Van, and be there the day it shows up with banners, leaflets and other materials.

- In Santa Rosa, student organizers put protest leaflets into all the teachers' mail boxes, and then leafleted their peers when the military arrived.
- In Spokane, Washington, the students had leaflets prepared to hand out to their peers upon its arrival, but someone was convinced by their activism, because the van never showed up. Stage Street theater. In Duluth, Minnesota, activists met the Cruise one year with body bags and demonstrators. In Milwaukee, 17-year-old organizer Anna Fritz made it all happen with kites when the recruiting ship docked. SCREAM for Peace. Inspired by the actions put together by youth around the country, a few of us decided that there must be an ever-present

youth force within the anti-militarist movement. We decided to SCREAM for peace.

From Florida to Wisconsin to Iowa to California, students are coming together for CCCO's Student Committee Resisting Enlistment and Militarism. We need more young people to stand up against the violence and status-quo keeping heathens who think they're entitled to be in charge. They better think again, because SCREAM is headed their way! Together we will build a national network of youth activists ready to show them what **real power** is . . . the power of nonviolent action.

We have brochures, flyers, more copies of AWOL — and even an anti-war comic book, all provided by CCCO. Now it's time for us, the youth, to provide the voice and determination to get the job done! After all, this is about us.

To order material for your school, contact CCCO; for more information about SCREAM, call 1-800-NO-JROTC and ask for Oriana.

After all: would you rather be on the other side of a flyer about conscientious objection — or of a machine gun?

## Debunking the Myth of the Color-Blind Military

*A Dialogue by Ted Florea*

When Master Sergeant Jay Cook, an African-American serving at Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana, was asked about race relations on the base he replied, "A more apropos term would be 'human relations.'" Indeed, if we were to believe the U.S. Armed Forces, we would conclude that the race of today's soldier is of no relevance, military racism has been overcome, and harmony reigns in the (now color-blind) military world. The truth of the matter, however, lies far from the rhetoric of the military's self-aggrandizement.

Let's take a little stroll through the propagandistic misinformation, and creative fabrications of the U.S. Armed Forces' mythical racial utopia in an attempt to better understand military "human relations" and the military as a whole. Toward this end, let's have a chat with the equally mythical Colonel R. Blind of the U.S. Armed Forces.

**Col. R. Blind:** The U.S. Armed Forces is an island of egalitarianism in a society plagued with injustice. The military could teach America a lesson or two about tolerance!

**Informed Individual:** Col. Blind, while it is in the military's best interest to present itself as institutionally egalitarian, it is by definition authoritarian and non-democratic. In a sense, when one is huddled in a ditch, scared to death, and in agonizing pain, race might seem to lose some of its importance. The military, however, does not produce non-racist individuals. Recent racist crimes at Ft. Bragg, including murders, assault and swastikas painted on barracks, graphically reveal the limits of the military's tolerance. So do the quotes from soldiers that "poor people do not work hard enough at getting out of poverty," that "a stable family suffers if a woman works outside the home," and that "homosexuals are perverts."

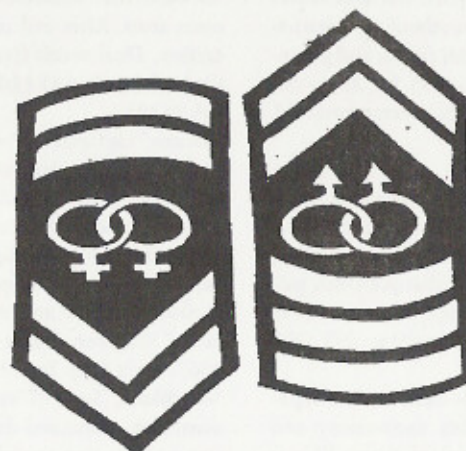
**Col. R. Blind:** But race doesn't matter anymore. Soldiers are soldiers, first and foremost.

**Informed Individual:** Frankly, even a cursory glance at recent and past military actions proves



Where do we go from here?

The solution to the military's degradation of queers is not easily found, and it will not come simply with an end to the treachery of DADT. Inherent in the military is an attitude of supremacy and a hatred of diversity that allows it to slaughter millions because of differences, whether of opinion, sex, or race. Because of this, inclusivity, tolerance, and understanding will never be military policy: they are contradictory to the fundamental basis on which the military kills, tortures, and maims. But DADT is indicative of the way in which the rest of society marginalizes queers and denies their worth as human beings. In working to counter DADT, the value is not that one day queers will be allowed to serve openly, but that in fighting any kind of hatred and discrimination, one is fighting to crack the foundation on which the military stands.



## Revolutionary Reviews

*by Nicole Gugliotti and Jen Ritsema*

### Zines

**Bells and Cells #1-** This is the result of extensive consciousness raising (a form of discussion then analysis based on people's own experiences) on the public education system. As the name implies, the (mostly) high school students that produced this zine have concluded that school is a racist, sexist place and basically a prison for young people. There are many articles to back up these claims. But the writers are not just griping—they're doing something about it!

Read this zine and find out all about the Gainesville "Freedom School." (Send \$1 to GFS, c/o Civic Media Center, 1021 W. University Ave., Gainesville, FL 32601)

**Burning Down the Neighborhood #1-** Major focus on the overt class war (commonly known as the Olympics) waged on the poor people of Atlanta. Also, info for the anarchist in you. (Send \$1 to Tanith, PO Box 80967, Chamblee, GA 30366)

# Queers in the Military Under "Don't Ask, Don't Tell"

by Sarah Dirks

Four years ago, the national debate over gays and lesbians in the military was cut off by President Clinton's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell (DADT)" policy, which was offered up as a kinder, gentler policy. In reality, DADT takes homophobia to a new level of hypocrisy by allowing the military to hide its hatred of gays behind vague language and subterfuge. To the military, gays and lesbians are still "perverts" and "sickos," and crimes against them continue as furiously as ever.

Under DADT, all so-called homosexual conduct is grounds for discharge, from holding hands or hugging to cuddling and kissing. There is no distinction between speech and conduct; to the military, saying you are gay indicates that you have gay sex, and therefore can get you kicked out. You can be court-martialed for sodomy (oral or anal sex) even if it is consensual, done in private, off base, and on your own time. Any mix n' match combination of "evidence"—possessing gay paraphernalia, going to a gay bar, or attending a gay parade—can initiate investigation and discharge proceedings.

There has been no attempt whatsoever on the part of the military to institute fairness into policy interpretation, and lesbians and gays live in constant fear of being discovered. Witch-hunts continue; a recent witch-hunt in Okinawa ended in the interrogation of 21 service members and the seizure of personal diaries, papers, and computers in an effort to expel homosexuals. Gay service members live with constant humiliation; abuses from name-calling to death threats go unchallenged by those in command. Even if the military put every effort into ensuring that DADT was justly and uniformly implemented, no good could ever come out of a policy that forces gays and lesbians back into the closet, that at its best, denies the value and contributions of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people not only in the military, but in the rest of society as well.

## Military to Women: Don't Even Think It

By their very presence in the military, women threaten to overturn traditional male-female, dominant-submissive American culture. Any challenge to the military's self-appointed role as the be-all, end-all ideal of masculinity (brutal, macho, and ever in control) is met with increasing violence. The military's current method of dealing with such threats is to create an environment both intolerable for and hazardous to women. Rape is the fastest growing crime in the military, and both the military's rape and sexual harassment rates are twice that of the civilian population. DADT has provided just one more way for the military to keep women from protesting the treatment they receive and to keep them in their place (read: under the feet and fists of men); women in the military are told that if they refuse to have sex with male service members, they will be accused of lesbianism, and dealt with accordingly. DADT is used to retaliate against women who report crimes of violence against them. Women who report sexual assault or rape are often immediately investigated for homosexual conduct. Too many men think, "Who but a LESBIAN would refuse sex with me?" After Shannon Emery, a young private stationed in Korea, reported being sexually assaulted by several drunken men in her command, she was accused of homosexuality and court-martialed while her attackers were not charged. Her commander told her that unless she identified 10-15 other lesbians in her command, she would spend 10 years in prison. Because women must deal with the deeply entrenched sexism of the military, they are investigated under the DADT nearly three times as often as men.



this statement to be untrue. The military sees color all too well. The military rigorously targets low-income youth and people of color, promising indispensable life skills and economic betterment and selling itself as the poor African-American or Latino's only hope for social advancement. In times of enlistment shortage, the army preys on the economic hardship of its minority populations. In the 1970s, 25% of all African-American men who turned eighteen years old entered the armed forces! When a recent study showed a slight decrease in the percentage of young African-Americans who would consider a military career, your recruiting command went ballistic, commissioning studies and special ad campaigns to ensure recruitment of people of color to feed the war machine.

**Col. R. Blind:** But people of color, once in the military, receive valuable skills.

**Informed Individual:** Valuable for the military, perhaps, but driving M1 tanks and scrubbing cooling units have NO significant labor market applications. Veterans tend to earn less than non-veterans, and one-third of all homeless individuals (again, largely people of color) are vets. In fact, the military's own studies have shown that *any* civilian job training program they could find — community colleges, apprenticeships — led to better earnings and incomes for its trainees than did military training.

**Col. R. Blind:** Ah, but the military itself offers great opportunities for people of color.

**Informed Individual:** Look more closely, sir: overall, minority soldiers do not rise to officer level as quickly or as frequently as their white peers. What you do guarantee your soldiers, of all races, is the chance to kill and be killed. For soldiers of color who currently make up 30% of the military, you provide the "opportunity" to constitute 30% of the fatalities of future wars. The simple fact is that the more minority soldiers you have in the armed forces, the more minority casualties you have — especially when people of color are clustered in the lowest ranks. Twenty per cent of those killed in Vietnam were African-American, despite the fact that African-Americans of that era comprised only 11% of the U.S. population. Nicolas Von Hoffman argued in 1982 that "History teaches us mercenary soldiers are highly reliable," and concluded that "Wars should be fought by people who need the work." You seem to have internalized this twisted and anti-democratic reasoning.

In truth, the future of one of today's potential low-economic echelon soldiers of color (whom we'll call Chris) looks something like this: First, due to cutback-caused high acceptance standards, Chris might never get to basic training, having been rejected outright. If Chris is "lucky" enough to successfully run the meritocratic rat race, s/he will learn skills with no real world applicability, experience racial harassment, do his/her time, and be discharged now WORSE off in today's job market than if s/he had never enlisted. Chris will either end up homeless, find a low-paying job, or do what thousands of other hopeless and unemployed discharged people of color have done—reenlist. Perhaps if Chris is very lucky, s/he will lead a glorious military career, rise through the ranks, and become the instrument of execution for a racist nation. Then again, Chris might simply get an eight inch-long piece of shrapnel lodged in his/her skull

**If you're Black,  
Latino, Asian,  
or American Indian,**



**Uncle Sam  
wants you  
to do the dirty work  
in Today's Army**

and die screaming in a foreign land. Any way you slice it, Chris and most other people of color whom you ensnare are doomed from the outset.

Col. R. Blind: Well...I never...I mean, what about Colin Powell?

Informed Individual: What about your self-made African-American cultural / military hero? I must admit that I'm not impressed. If anything, I'm saddened and a bit disgusted. Powell was a person of color who led a military force, 50 % of whose front-line troops were people of color, into a foreign nation to burn, crush, and obliterate 150,000 other people of color. Iraqi children are still dying by the thousands for lack of water and proper medical supplies. All this so that a clique of predominantly white capitalistic neo-imperialists could prosper. If Colin Powell is "all that we can be," the military seems like a sad bet at best.

Col. R. Blind: I don't see how...

Informed Individual: You don't see because, in truth, you are Col. R. Blind, my friend. What's more, you would Col. R. Blind and mislead thousands of young Asian-Americans, African-Americans, Native-Americans, and people of Latino descent into selling their youth and lives away. The U.S. Military is not a career choice. The U.S. Military is the last refuge of the socially-coerced minority mercenary; nothing more than a nationalistic institution of ideological indoctrination, moral and ethical deprivation, and, ultimately, Col. R. Blindness. Perhaps someday people of all colors will shake off your rhetoric, lift off the veil of lies, and finally see the true colors of the armed forces. In that moment, all of your false promises, all of your "color Col. R. Blind" myths, and all of your illusions will be dispelled. Until then, informed individuals, those who yearn for peace and embrace life, those who love inclusively and care deeply, will struggle against you in the name of tolerance, justice, and equality. Until then, in an attempt to truly transform "race relations" into "human relations," informed individuals will fight against Col. R. Blindness in the name of truth.



## AN ANIMAL LIBERATIONIST CASE FOR PEACE

by Jon Schledewitz

As with most humyn crimes against themselves and this planet, other-than-humyn animals can be found somewhere in the process of destruction. They are victimized both in the development of technology for destruction and in the final outcome. War being such a prevalent issue at all times in our lives, it would be anthropocentric (centering one's views on humyns) and, hence, insensitive to assume that we are the only creatures affected by it.

Through the ages, animals have been trained and used as weapons. The early European invaders trained mastiffs and greyhounds to attack the First Nation's people. In WWI, horses were forced to pull guns, and eight million horses died as cannon fodder. During WWII,

dogs were trained by the Russian army to carry explosives while running toward enemy tanks, blowing up both the tank and themselves. (Note: at the outset of WWII, 400,000 cats and dogs were casualties in London alone.)

In the Vietnam War, dolphins were used in the Swimmer Nullification System. In other words, bayonets designed to inflate life rafts were positioned on a dolphin's snout, the dolphin would swim up to and jab the Vietnamese frog men, and a burst of air would be sent into the swimmer's body cavity, sending their insides out their mouth and ass. It is said that the dolphins were given an addiction to heroin in order to keep them coming back to do more work. As of 1980, the Swiss army was using

### I KNOW I WON'T FIGHT . . . BUT HOW DO I PROVE IT?

You've looked at the options and decided that you do, in fact want to register. But you know that, in the unlikely but still possible event of a draft, you would never fight in a war. Perhaps you're a woman, and want to register your protest of the entire system. Is there any way you can tell Selective Service that you're a conscientious objector (CO)?

CCCO receives calls asking this question regularly. The answer is a definite *yes and no*. Even though the registration card has no official space for it, you can still put yourself on record as a CO. Write on the bottom of the registration card, *I am a conscientious objector*. Photocopy the actual card a few times; place one of the copies in a sealed envelope before mailing the card to Selective Service; then mail the copy to yourself on the same day that you register. Don't open it! Since the actual card is destroyed after processing, your sealed, postmarked envelope is the only existing record of your notice to the Selective Service.

Of course, if you had to prove a CO claim to a draft board, you'd need more than a postcard — and you may not have much time to prepare your claim. Some young men, when they register, will collect letters from teachers, friends, religious leaders and others who know of their beliefs. Letters should attest to the sincerity of your convictions. However, at CCCO we urge you to go beyond compiling a claim.

The legal definition of a conscientious objector is a person who objects to participation in all forms of war, and whose belief is based on a religious, moral or ethical belief system. To be a CO, you don't have to believe in God; nor do you have to oppose using violence in personal self-defense. However, under current legal definitions you must oppose participating in *all* wars. Advocates are still fighting for legal recognition of *selective objection*, your right to refuse to fight in specific wars.

### FIGHTING ECONOMIC CONSCRIPTION

For those of us who declare ourselves conscientious objectors, whether or not we're at risk of being drafted, the real challenge is to end *all* conscription — especially the "poverty draft." Today's military spends nearly \$2 billion a year targeting high-achieving low-income youth with commercials, personal visits and brochures, and mobile recruiting (see p. 3), to convince them that the military's their best option — perhaps their only one.

CCCO works against the poverty draft in two ways. We work to counter the recruiters' lies and get the word out to young people before they sign up. As co-sponsors of the G.I. Rights Hotline (1-800-FYI-95GI), we're there for those who, after entering the military, realize their mistake but don't know where to turn. That includes young people who sign up for the Delayed Entry Program (DEP) and haven't yet gone in — spread the word that it's not only possible to get out of the DEP, it's easy!

For more information on your options, or to get involved, contact CCCO at 1-800-NO-JROTC!

# QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT DRAFT REGISTRATION

The phrase "the draft" conjures up images from the Vietnam War: weekly body counts, young men making agonized decisions. More than 20 years later, no one is actually being drafted. But young people still have important decisions to make.

I'M TURNING 18.

WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO?

If you're male and a U.S. resident, whether or not you're a citizen, you're required to register with the Selective Service System within thirty days of your 18th birthday. On the registration form, available at your local post office, you'll be asked for your name, gender, social security number, date of birth, temporary and permanent addresses, phone numbers, and signature. You *won't* be asked if you're a conscientious objector: you'd have to tell them that yourself (see below for how).

IS A DRAFT LIKELY?

In a word, no.

By targeting low-income youth with a high-pressure sales pitch and inflated promises, the military has kept up its supply of ground troops. And the Pentagon now relies heavily on the Reserve and National Guard, mobilizing such units in every deployment. The Selective Service, on the other hand, is set up for the sort of massive long-term war that hasn't happened since Vietnam — and even then the Pentagon doesn't expect to propose a new draft.

WHAT IF I CHOOSE NOT TO REGISTER?

You have no intention of ever being part of the military; you've ignored the recruiters, despite repeated phone calls and subtle pressure from school guidance counselors. Why, you may ask, should you put your name in line for a future, massive military action? One reason, of course, is that it's the law.

*You're violating the law, although you're not likely to be prosecuted.*

Failure to register is a federal offense: if prosecuted and convicted, you could face up to five years' imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine. If you refuse to register with Selective Service, you'll receive threatening letters, at first politely reminding you to register, finally informing you that your name has been turned over to the Department of Justice for possible prosecution. These sound scary, but they're mostly bluff. No one has actually been formally charged since 1986.

In the early 1980s, 21 young men were indicted for refusal to register: 19 of those 21 were public resisters. *Wherever there were trials, the rates of registration actually went down.* This resistance helped halt prosecutions.

*You become ineligible for federal aid.*

If you don't register, you become ineligible for federal student aid, federal job training or civil service employment (anywhere from the Post Office to the Park Service). In some states you can't get state aid or even, as in Colorado, attend state colleges. (Call CCCO for information on your state's policies.) However, many states do offer state aid regardless of registration status. Some college financial aid officers will help you seek alternative aid; a handful of schools have a special fund for such cases. And as a resister, you're eligible for FEAT, the Fund for Education and Training — a special scholarship designed for those who resist registration.

pigeons as message carriers.

The list of animals used in the war machine goes on. Elephants for heavy lifting, goats and mules as carriers (mules were de-voiced in Southeast Asia so they wouldn't betray their presence to enemies), seals for submarine hunting, and killer whales to track torpedoes. Many other animals have been slaughtered en masse simply out of soldiers' fears that an animal trained by the enemy may be present.

But the exploitation of animals does not end with their use and abuse in the field. They are most often, especially today, used in experimentation for war technology. In 1946, the military used 4,000 sheep, goats, and other animals in a South Pacific atomic blast. In a boat nicknamed "the Atomic Ark," the animals were killed or severely burned after the blast was detonated above the boat. Since 1951, the Inhalation Toxicology Research Institute has received over "\$300 million for experiments that forced animals to inhale radioactive particles in a search for guidelines on human exposure risks." Animals included in these experiments were dogs, guinea pigs, rats, and primates. In 1987, at the Naval Medical Institute in Maryland, rats' backs were shaved, covered in ethanol, then "flamed" for 10 seconds.

Further examples of military experimentation: In a study that concluded that radiation affects the gallbladder, 17 beagles were exposed to total-body irradiation, studied for 1-7 days, then killed. "To evaluate the effect of temperature on the transmission of the Dengue 2 virus (a mosquito-transmitted disease that causes fever, muscle pain, and rash), experiments conducted by the U.S. Army at Ft. Detrick, MD, involved shaving the stomachs of adult rhesus monkeys, then attaching cartons of mosquitoes to their bodies to allow the mosquitoes to feed." At Aberdeen Proving Grounds, 30 cats were immobilized in canvas bags "with only

their heads protruding" and exposed to 50 rounds of loud blasts of noise from a howitzer placed 29-115 feet away and "fired as rapidly as the crew could serve the weapon," then tested for hearing loss, which in some was "so large as to be unmeasurable" and killed.

These are just a few examples of the torture animals are being subjected to in the name of national (in)security and global domination. These are just a few examples of how, in this whole society, other-than-humyn animals are treated as property instead of autonomous, sentient beings deserving of dignity. (Yet even humyn supremacists would agree that military vivisection [experimentation on living animals] is unacceptable—the usual justification for vivisection being that the purpose is to help people, one goal military vivisection cannot logically be said to have in mind!)



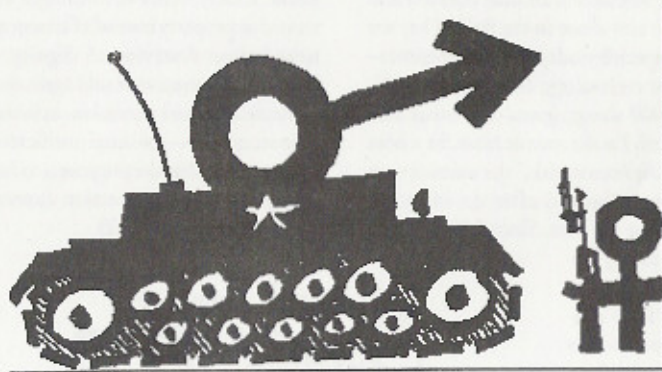
**THE FIGHT AGAINST THE  
WAR MACHINE IS NOT ONLY A  
FIGHT FOR HUMYN  
LIBERATION, IT IS A FIGHT  
FOR ANIMAL LIBERATION.**

*For more info, please contact:*

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- People for the Ethical Treatment of  
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# The Military— Furthering the Struggle for Womyn's Equality?

by Susanne Raymond



## A Short History of Womyn's Induction and Roles in the U.S. Military

The military, which could easily be considered the most sexist, violent, and male-dominated institution in this society, only catalyzes the struggle for womyn's equality through harassment and humiliation on a day-to-day basis.

In 1903, the Army Nurse Corps was established and, for the next 30 years, womyn were allowed to service the military as nurses. (The reality is that womyn have served in a variety of military capacities, albeit unofficially, since the revolutionary war.) During WWII, in order to free up men for combat positions, Roosevelt created the Women's Army Corps. W.A.C. claimed to give womyn the ability to gain rank and "benefit" equal to those of male personnel. However, womyn were still not allowed in actual combat (and it is virtually impossible for any person who is not in a combat position to be promoted to a top level command post).

Today, womyn are still generally barred from combat positions and primarily perform communication functions, such as clerical work and administration. It's not incidental that these positions are also the lowest-skilled and lowest-paying jobs in the forces.

## Sexual Harassment in the Military

When surveyed by the Pentagon, 78% of womyn in the U.S. military stated that they had come into contact with sexual harassment in their day-to-day lives. One-third of those womyn had either been "touched or cornered" or out-and-out assaulted.

A Navy hospital corps member is denied promotion because she didn't grant "sexual favors." A Coast Guard petty officer is threatened with a screwdriver by men who've pressed her for oral sex. Two SEAL trainees are held for the rape and murder of a Georgia college student. Four Marines are charged in the rape of a female sailor while deployed to Iceland. At



Annapolis, one midshipman twice raped a high school girl and her sister, while another was accused of assaulting *four* female cadets. And at the Air Force Academy, a female cadet in a mock prisoner of war camp was chained to a urinal, sexually humiliated, and beaten unconscious three times. These are among the few cases that made it all the way to court-martial or legal action; at least half of such incidents aren't even reported.

There are many valid reasons why womyn would choose not to report such incidents. Many fear no action will be taken; many know no action will be taken (for example, if the commander, who the report must be filed with, is the harasser). Womyn fear that they will be investigated and branded troublemakers or lesbians.

Despite political statements condemning sexual harassment, the military practices a policy of victim-blaming. A perfect example of this is that after a womyn sued for damages stemming from an on-base rape, the military paid her, gave her a bathrobe, and told her that rape is "incidental to the military service." The Navy's investigations of the 1991 Tailhook scandal, in which 21 womyn were assaulted by drunken aviators, generated a 2,000 page report and some reassignment of officers—but no charges. Since this incident, many Navy womyn say that the atmosphere has worsened.

The military is a world in which womyn have never been welcome, where harassment is treated as nothing more or less than accepted workaday attitudes, where womyn are seen only as objects. The military has, to say the least, failed to challenge deeply-ingrained patterns of sexism and sexual harassment, even in the face of recent scandals. But how can we honestly expect the military, an institution designed to kill, disable and maim human beings, and dismantle whole communities, to be a safe place for womyn? Such aspirations will not get us far. What paradox to request liberation from the institution that wrote the book on patriarchy! If we really want to help womyn around the world, including the thousands of civilian womyn in other countries who are raped as a common feature of war, we will dismantle THE MILITARY.

